

Official Transcript of Proceedings

NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Title: R.E. Ginna Nuclear Power Plant
License Renewal - Public Meeting
Afternoon Session

Docket Number: (not applicable)

Location: Ontario, New York

Date: Thursday, August 7, 2003

Work Order No.: NRC-1026

Pages 1-74

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UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
OFFICE OF NUCLEAR REACTOR REGULATION
+ + + + +
PUBLIC MEETING ON THE
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
FOR THE
R.E. GINNA NUCLEAR POWER PLANT
LICENSE RENEWAL

+ + + + +
THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 2003

1:30 P.M.

FIREMAN'S EXEMPT HALL

1840 ROUTE 104

ONTARIO, NEW YORK 14519

The meeting on the above-entitled matter commenced at 1:30 p.m., Francis "Chip" Cameron, presiding as Moderator/Facilitator.

NRC Presenters:

JOHN TAPPERT
RUSSELL ARRIGHI
ROBERT SCHAAF
DUANE NEITZEL
MARK RUBIN
RICHARD EMCH

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I-N-D-E-X

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P-R-O-C-E-E-D-I-N-G-S

1:33 p.m.

1
2
3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Good afternoon,
4 everyone, and welcome to the NRC's public meeting. My
5 name is Chip Cameron, and I'm the special counsel for
6 public liaison at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.
7 It's my pleasure to serve as your facilitator for
8 today's meeting. And in that role I'll try to assist
9 all of you in having a productive meeting today.

10 Today's meeting is on the draft
11 environmental impact statement that the NRC has
12 prepared to assist the NRC in making a decision on an
13 application to renew the license at the Ginna nuclear
14 power plant. And this application was submitted by
15 Rochester Gas and Electric.

16 And I just wanted to take just a couple of
17 minutes to go over some of the meeting process issues
18 before we get into the substance of today's
19 discussion.

20 In terms of objectives for the meeting, we
21 want to make sure that we clearly explain to everyone
22 what the license renewal process is all about, what
23 the role of environmental review is in that license
24 renewal process. And most importantly, in terms of
25 information to give you a summary of what the NRC has

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1 found in the draft environmental impact statement.

2 The second objective is to hear from you,
3 anybody who wants to give us any advice or
4 recommendations on the license renewal process and
5 specifically the draft environmental impact statement.
6 And I do want to emphasize the information aspect of
7 the meeting, because we're also requesting written
8 comments on the draft environmental impact statement,
9 but we wanted to be here with you today to talk to you
10 in person and anything that you say today, anything
11 you give us in comments will be, will have the same
12 weight as a written comment.

13 We're transcribing the meeting. Mary Ann
14 is our stenographer and that will be a written record
15 of the meeting that will be available not only to the
16 NRC for purposes of evaluating comments, but also to
17 the public. And you may hear things this afternoon,
18 either from the NRC or from members of the audience
19 that will give you information that will either
20 perhaps stimulate you to submit a written comment or
21 to help you to prepare your written comments. So if
22 there's anything that you don't understand that we
23 don't clearly explain to you, please ask so that we
24 can try to get you that information.

25 The format of the meeting matches the

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1 objectives in terms of providing information. We're
2 going to have some NRC presentations for you on
3 various issues, and I'll go through those in a minute.
4 And then after each presentation or each two
5 presentations, we're going to go out to you to see if
6 you have any questions that we can answer for you.

7 Second part of the meeting is for us to
8 listen to any formal comments that you may have and if
9 you want to make a comment, there is a yellow card in
10 the back that we'd like you to fill out. And that's
11 not a requirement. If you want to come up and speak,
12 that's fine. But it just gives us an idea of how many
13 people to expect during the formal comment period.

14 And that leads me to the ground rules for
15 today's meeting, which are very simple. If you want
16 to say anything, ask a question, please, just signal
17 me and I'll bring you what the NRC's staff has told is
18 a wireless microphone. And we'll get you on the
19 record. If you can just give us your name and
20 affiliation, if appropriate, and ask your question and
21 we'll try to get an answer for you. And when we get
22 to the -- particularly when we get to the formal
23 comment part of the meeting, I just ask everyone to
24 try to be as concise as possible so that we can make
25 sure that we hear from everybody who wants to speak.

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1 I don't think that we have a whole lot of
2 people this afternoon who want to talk, so that gives
3 us a little bit more flexibility time-wise. But
4 usually I use a guideline of five to seven minutes,
5 but as I've said that's not any sort of a drop dead
6 guideline because we do have time this afternoon. I
7 want to just tell you what the agenda is so you know
8 what to expect, and give you a little bit of an idea,
9 biography on some of our speaks so that you know what
10 their expertise is.

11 We're going to start in just a moment when
12 I'm done with John Tappert, who is right here.

13 And John Tappert is the Chief of the
14 Environmental Review Section within our Office of
15 Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And John and his staff
16 are responsible for overseeing the environmental
17 reviews that are done, not just on these types of
18 license renewal applications, but for any issue that
19 deals with reactors, where the NRC needs to look at
20 environmental impacts before they make a decision on
21 a particular issue.

22 In terms of background, John has been with
23 the NRC for approximately 12 years. He was a resident
24 inspector and these people are particularly important
25 to the NRC because they are the ones who are at the

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1 reactors. They live in the community and they make
2 sure that NRC requirements are being followed. Before
3 that, he was in the nuclear Navy. He has a bachelor's
4 degree in Aerospace and Oceanographic Engineering from
5 Virginia Tech and a master's degree in Environmental
6 Engineering from Johns Hopkins University.

7 John is going to give us a short welcome
8 and then we're going to go to two members of the NRC
9 staff who are going to give you an overview of the
10 license renewal process.

11 The first person that we're going to hear
12 from is Mr. Russ Arrighi, who is right here. He's the
13 project manager for the safety review on the Ginna
14 License Renewal Application.

15 And then we're going to go to Bob Schaaf
16 who is the project manager on the environmental
17 review, which is the specific focus of today's
18 meeting. Then we'll go on to you for any questions
19 that you might have about process.

20 In terms of Russ' background, he's been
21 with the NRC for about 14 years. He was also a
22 resident inspector. Like John, Russ was at the
23 Millstone Power Plant in Connecticut and also the
24 Pilgrim Power Plant in Massachusetts. Before the NRC,
25 he was at the Norfolk Naval Ship Yard as a test

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1 engineer, and he has a bachelor's in chemical
2 engineering from the University of Rhode Island, and
3 we'll have Russ up there in a minute.

4 Bob Schaaf is right here and Bob has been
5 with the NRC for about 13 years also. He has served
6 as project manager in our office of Nuclear Reactor
7 Regulation in operating reactors in the environmental
8 section. He also worked at the Naval Ship Yard, the
9 Charleston Naval Ship Yard in engineering and he has
10 a bachelor's in mechanical engineering from Georgia
11 Tech.

12 So after we get done with process, we're
13 going to focus on the heart of the discussion today
14 and that is the findings in the draft environmental
15 impact statement. And to present that, we have Duane
16 Neitzel who is right here. And Duane is the team
17 leader for the group of expert scientists that the NRC
18 has doing the environmental review for the Ginna
19 Plant. Duane is a fish biologist. He's been with
20 Pacific Northwest Lab for about 32 years. He has a
21 bachelor's in zoology from the University of
22 Washington and a Master's in Biosciences from
23 Washington State? Washington State University.

24 After Duane is done, we'll go back out to
25 you again for questions and then we're going to go to

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1 a special subject in the draft environmental impact
2 statement, and that's something called severe accident
3 mitigation alternatives. And they're called SAMAs.
4 We have Mark Rubin from the NRC staff with us who is
5 going to do that presentation. And Mark is a Section
6 Chief in the probabilistic safety assessment branch,
7 again, Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation at the
8 NRC. And he's been at the NRC for 27 years, primarily
9 working in something that's called probabilistic risk
10 assessment, and I think when you hear from Mark today
11 you'll get a better understanding of what that
12 particular expertise is. He has a Master's and
13 Bachelor's of Science in Nuclear Engineering from the
14 University of California in Los Angeles, UCLA. He's
15 a member of the American Nuclear Society, the
16 Probabilistic Risk Assessment Standards Committee.

17 With that, I would just like to thank you
18 all for being here. We have a lot of experts from the
19 NRC and our expert consultants. We have people from
20 our Office of General Counsel. I would just urge you
21 to after the meeting, if you have questions, get to
22 know them, talk to them. And keep in touch, if you
23 have questions or concerns. We'll give you some phone
24 numbers and addresses today and we do have something
25 called an evaluation form. I think formally it is

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1 called a feedback form where we try to find out how
2 we're doing in public meetings. So it is at the back
3 table and if you could just fill it out and leave it
4 with us if you're so inclined. It already has a
5 metered stamp so to speak on it. You can just drop
6 them in a mailbox.

7 And with that, I'm going to ask John to
8 come up and welcome.

9 MR. TAPPERT: Thank you, Chip. Good
10 afternoon and welcome. As Chip said, my name is John
11 Tappert and I'm the Chief of the Environmental Section
12 in the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation. And on
13 behalf of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, I would
14 like to thank you for taking time out of your
15 afternoon today and participating in our process.

16 I would like to briefly go over the agenda
17 and purposes of today's meeting.

18 First of all, we're going to provide a
19 brief overview of the entire license renewal process.
20 Now this includes both a safety review, as well as
21 the environmental review, which will be the principal
22 focus of today's meeting. Then we're to provide you
23 the results of our environmental impact statement that
24 was developed to assess the impacts associated with
25 extending the operating license of the Ginna nuclear

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1 power plant for an additional 20 years.

2 Then we'll provide you some information
3 about the balance of our review schedule and how you
4 can submit comments after today's meeting, and then
5 the most important part of today's meeting, which is
6 to receive any comments that you may have today on our
7 draft and environmental impact statement, or EIS.

8 But first I'd like to provide some general
9 context on the license renewal program and why we're
10 here today.

11 Next slide.

12 (Slide change.)

13 MR. TAPPERT: The Atomic Energy Act gives
14 the NRC the authority to issue operating licenses to
15 commercial nuclear power plants for a period of 40
16 years. For the Ginna nuclear power plant, that
17 operating license will expire in 2009. Our
18 regulations also made provision is for extending that
19 operating license for an additional 20 years as a part
20 of a license renewal program and RG&E has requested
21 renewal for Ginna.

22 As part of the NRC's review of that
23 application, we developed an environmental impact
24 statement. As part of that environmental impact
25 statement process, we held a public meeting here last

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1 fall to seek early public input in our review. As we
2 indicated at that earlier scoping meeting, we returned
3 here now today to present the findings in our draft
4 environmental impact statement. And again, the
5 principal purpose of today's meeting is to receive
6 your comments on that draft.

7 With that brief introduction, I'd like to
8 ask Russ to provide some more insights on this safety
9 review.

10 MR. ARRIGHI: Thank you, John. As John
11 mentioned my name is Russ Arrighi. I'm the project
12 manager for the safety review of Ginna's license
13 renewal application. Before discussing the license
14 renewal process and the safety review, I'd like to
15 talk a little bit about the NRC, the Nuclear
16 Regulatory Commission and its role in licensing and
17 regulating nuclear power plants. The Atomic Energy
18 Act of 1954 authorized the NRC to regulate civilian
19 use of nuclear material. The NRC mission is
20 threefold, to ensure the adequate protection of public
21 health and safety, to protect the environment, and to
22 provide for common defense and security.

23 NRC consists of five commissioners, one of
24 whom is a chairman. They're also with the NRC staff.
25 The regulations enforced by the NRC are issued under

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1 Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations, which we
2 call 10 CFR. Excuse me.

3 As John mentioned, the Atomic Energy Act
4 provided for a 40-year license term for power
5 reactors. But it also allowed for license renewal.
6 The 40-year term is based primarily on economic and
7 anti-trust considerations rather than safety
8 limitations.

9 As a result, some of the components
10 weren't designed to operate, designed to last greater
11 than 40 years. And operating experience demonstrated
12 that some major components such a steam generators
13 didn't last that long. For that reason, a number of
14 utilities had to replace major components, and since
15 components and structures can be replaced or
16 reconditioned, a plant's life is really determined by
17 economic factors.

18 Again, the operating license for Ginna
19 expires in September 2009. Rochester Gas and Electric
20 Corporation has applied for and requests authorization
21 to operate Ginna up to an additional 20 years.

22 Now I'd like to talk about license
23 renewal, which is governed by the requirements of 10
24 CFR part 54 or the license renewal rule. This part of
25 the code of federal regulations defines the regulatory

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1 process by which a nuclear utility applies for license
2 renewal. The license renewal rule also incorporates
3 10 CFR part 51 by reference. This part of the code
4 provides for preparation of an environmental impact
5 statement. The license renewal process involves a
6 safety review and environmental impact evaluations,
7 plants inspections, and are reviewed by the Advisory
8 Committee on Reactor Safeguards, or ACRS.

9 The ACRS is a group of scientists and
10 nuclear experts who serve as a consulting body to the
11 Commission. The ACRS performs an independent review
12 of the application in the staff's safety evaluation.
13 And they report their findings and recommendations
14 directly to the Commission.

15 Next slide, please.

16 (Slide change.)

17 MR. ARRIGHI: The next slide illustrates
18 a two parallel process for license renewal. The top
19 part talks about the safety review, which I'm the
20 project manager for and the bottom section talks about
21 the environmental review which Bob Schaaf will discuss
22 later.

23 The safety review involves the staff's
24 review of the technical information in the
25 application. To verify with reasonable assurance that

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1 the plant can continue to operate safely during the
2 extended period of operation. The staff assesses how
3 the applicant proposes to monitor or manage the aging
4 applicable to passive long-lived structures and
5 components that are within the scope of license
6 renewal and documents its assessment of the
7 effectiveness of the Applicant's programs in the SER.

8 So we do the review, the safety review,
9 and we put out an evaluation in a safety evaluation
10 report.

11 Now the current regulation is adequate for
12 addressing active components, such as pumps and
13 valves, which are continually challenged to reveal
14 failures and degradation such that corrective actions
15 can be taken to resolve them. The current regulations
16 are also adequate to also address other aspects of the
17 original license such as security and emergency
18 planing. These current regulations also apply during
19 the extended period of operation.

20 The ACES then would get the safety
21 evaluation report where they do an independent review
22 and again, they review the application and they
23 provide their report directly to the Commission. The
24 safety review also includes inspections, on-site
25 inspections by the regional -- I'm sorry. The safety

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1 review process also involves two or three inspections
2 which are documented in NRC inspection reports, and
3 they're performed by regional inspectors. Again, at
4 the bottom of the slide of the environmental review
5 process, the environmental review which involves
6 scoping activities, preparation of a draft supplement
7 to the generic environmental impact statements,
8 solicitation of public comments on the draft
9 supplement, and then the issuance of a final
10 supplement to the generic environmental impact
11 statements, and Bob Schaaf will discuss that further.

12 The decision to renew an operating
13 license, the NRC considers the safety evaluation
14 report, the ACRS report, the inspection reports, and
15 also the NRC Regional Administrator's recommendation.
16 Again, the Regional Administrator is aware of the day
17 to day operation of the plant and he has an input and
18 a say on whether or not the license should be renewed.

19 The license renewal process also allows
20 for hearings. In September of 2002, the NRC issued a
21 Federal Register notice to announce its acceptance of
22 RG&E's application for renewal. Its notice also
23 announced the opportunity for public participation in
24 the process. There were no petitions to intervene,
25 no petitions were received by the staff.

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1 This concludes my summary, and now I'd
2 like to turn the mic over to Bob Schaaf.

3 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you very
4 much Russ. And we're going to Bob and then we're
5 going to go out to you for questions. We're getting
6 some static on the transcript with this mic so why
7 don't you try this one and we'll see if that's better.
8 Bob Schaaf, the environmental review..

9 MR. SCHAAF: Thank you, Jim. Thank you,
10 Russ. I'd like to welcome everyone this afternoon.
11 Your participation is appreciated. It is an important
12 component of our environmental review process.

13 Once again, my name is Bob Schaaf. I'm
14 the environmental project manager for the Ginna
15 license renewal application. I'm responsible for
16 coordinating the efforts of the NRC staff and the
17 contractors from the national labs to conduct and
18 document the review of RG&E's application for license
19 renewal at Ginna.

20 NEPA, the National Environmental Policy
21 Act was enacted in 1969. The act requires all federal
22 agencies to use the systematic approach to consider
23 environmental impacts during certain decision making
24 proceedings regarding major federal actions. NEPA
25 requires that we examine the environmental impacts of

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1 proposed actions and consider mitigation measures,
2 which are actions that can be taken to decrease any
3 environmental impacts identified.

4 NEPA also requires that we consider
5 alternatives to the proposed action and that we
6 evaluate the impacts of those alternatives. Finally,
7 NEPA requires that we disclose all of this information
8 and that we invite public participation to evaluate
9 it.

10 The NRC has determined that it will
11 prepare an environmental impact statement for requests
12 to renew plants' operating licenses. Therefore,
13 following the process required by NEPA, we have
14 prepared a draft environmental impact statement that
15 describes the impacts associated with operation of
16 Ginna for an additional 20 years.

17 The draft environmental impact statement
18 was issued at the end of June. The meetings today are
19 being held to provide an overview of our preliminary
20 conclusions and to receive your comments on the draft.
21 This slide describes the objective of our
22 environmental review as defined in our regulations.
23 Simply put, we're trying to determine whether the
24 renewal of the Ginna license is acceptable from an
25 environmental standpoint, whether or not that option

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1 is exercised, that is, whether or not the plant
2 actually operates for the additional 20 years, will be
3 determined by others, such as RG&E and state
4 regulatory agencies. It will also depend on the
5 outcome of the safety review described previously by
6 Russ.

7 (Slide change.)

8 MR. ARRIGHI: This slide shows with a
9 little more detail the process for environmental
10 review of the Ginna license renewal application. We
11 received the application at the end of July of last
12 year. We issued a notice of intent, which was
13 published in the Federal Register in October of last
14 year. This notice informed the public that we were
15 going to prepare an environmental impact statement,
16 also referred to as an EIS, and invited the public to
17 provide comments on the scope of our environmental
18 review.

19 In November of last year, during that
20 scoping period, we held two public meetings in this
21 area to receive public comments on the scope of issues
22 that should be included in the EIS for the Ginna
23 license renewal. Also in November, while we were here
24 for the public meetings, we went to the Ginna site
25 with the team of NRC staff and personnel from several

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1 of the national laboratories with backgrounds in the
2 specific technical and scientific disciplines required
3 to perform our environmental review.

4 We familiarized ourselves with the site,
5 met with RG&E staff to discuss the information
6 submitted in their license renewal application. We
7 reviewed environmental documentation maintained at
8 site and we examined RG&E's environmental evaluation
9 process. In addition, we contacted federal, state,
10 and local officials, local service agencies, and
11 Native American tribes with potential historical ties
12 to the plant area to gather information for our
13 review.

14 At the close of the scoping comment
15 period, we gathered up and considered all of the
16 comments that we received. Many of these comments
17 contributed to the document we are here to discuss
18 today. In December of last year, we issued requests
19 for additional information to ensure that any
20 information that we relied on in preparing our draft
21 impact statement and that had not been included in the
22 original application was submitted for the public
23 record. At the end of June of this year, we issued
24 the draft environmental impact statement for public
25 comment.

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1 This was issued to supplement 14 to the
2 generic environmental impact statement regarding
3 license renewal, because we rely on the findings in
4 the generic impact statement for part of our
5 conclusions. Duane Neitzel will provide additional
6 detail about the relationship between the generic
7 impact statement and the Ginna supplement as part of
8 his presentation.

9 The fact that we refer to the supplement
10 as a draft does not mean that it is incomplete. It is
11 considered a draft because we are at an intermediate
12 stage in our decision making process. We're in the
13 middle of a second public comment period to allow you
14 and other members of the public, as well as state and
15 federal agencies, to review our preliminary findings
16 and conclusions and provide any comments you may have
17 on the report. After we gather these comments and
18 evaluate them, we may find that we need to change
19 portions of the environmental impact statement based
20 on those comments.

21 The NRC will make any necessary changes
22 and then issue a final environmental impact statement
23 related to license renewal for Ginna. Currently, our
24 goal is to issue that document in February of next
25 year.

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1 This concludes my overview of the
2 environmental review process. We can now entertain
3 any questions regarding the processes described by
4 Russ and myself.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, great. Thank
6 you. Thank you, Bob. Thank you, Russ. Do we have
7 some questions on process before we get into the
8 substance of the draft environmental impact statement?
9 If there's anything that isn't clear, please ask and
10 we can always go back for questions after the formal
11 comment period too if something comes up. Okay,
12 great.

13 Well, let's hear about the findings in the
14 draft environmental impact statement.

15 Duane, are you ready?

16 MR. NEITZEL: Yes.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right. And this
18 is Duane Neitzel.

19 MR. NEITZEL: Thank you. My name is
20 Duane Neitzel. I am the laboratory lead for the
21 development of the supplemental environmental impact
22 statement for the license renewal at Ginna. I'm
23 responsible for coordinating the efforts of the staff
24 in the national labs in the conducting of this review.
25 I'm going to discuss the information gathering process

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1 that we used, the composition of the review team, and
2 the process we used for review, the information in the
3 applicant's environmental review report, and then
4 discuss some of the results and discuss the results of
5 the supplemental EIS.

6 If you look at in the middle of this
7 graphic here, we refer to the SEIS. That's a
8 supplement to another impact statement that has been
9 developed, which is the generic environmental impact
10 statement for license renewal. That impact statement
11 has been prepared, reviewed, and accepted by and
12 published by the NRC.

13 As we go to each one of the power plants
14 that request a renewal of their license, then we
15 supplement that GEIS and for brevity we call it the
16 SEIS. And so I'll be referring to the SEIS, which is
17 the supplement to the GEIS throughout my talk.

18 You see the arrows pointing to the SEIS?
19 That's where we get the information. The license
20 renewal application, this was prepared by Rochester
21 Gas and Electric. Part of that license renewal
22 request included an environmental report. They looked
23 at all these issues that we looked at. They provided
24 information about their operations, about the
25 environment, and about those effects. That was a big

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1 part of the information that we had to review. We
2 also, the staff audit was mentioned. The NRC staff
3 and the National Laboratory staff went to the site,
4 looked at the facility, looked at the operations,
5 looked at records. We did that last November.

6 We took that information. That went into
7 the SEIS. Your comments from the scoping meeting and
8 from other comments that were sent in were considered.
9 We also met with state and local agencies, some
10 federal agencies related to the management of these
11 resources in this area. Got their comments, asked
12 them what their concerns were on each of those issues.
13 Then we put that information together.

14 Next slide, please

15 (Slide change.)

16 MR. NEITZEL: This is to give you some
17 idea of the team that was brought together to evaluate
18 each one of these issues. We had scientists and
19 engineers that are experts in atmospheric sciences,
20 land use, aquatic and terrestrial ecology, radiation
21 protection, hydrology and water quality, socio-
22 economics, historic and archeological resources. All
23 these individuals reviewed this material. Some of
24 them are here tonight or this afternoon and they are
25 here to answer your questions, discuss the review with

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1 you, and talk to you, if you have any questions.
2 They'll be around. They have a tag on like this and
3 with their name and identifying them as members of the
4 Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

5 Next slide.

6 (Slide change.)

7 MR. NEITZEL: Some more on the process
8 that we used and back to these words, GEIS and SEIS.
9 The generic environmental impact statement looks at a
10 whole range of activities, issues, and come up with 92
11 different aspects of operation in the environment that
12 needs to be assessed, looked at those and ended up
13 with two categories. Category one issues and category
14 two issues.

15 Category one issues are impact statements
16 where we've looked at the potential impact at all the
17 plants operating in the United States and come to the
18 conclusion that no matter where you are that you get
19 the same impact statement.

20 There are a little over 20 of those that
21 are category two issues. There it was determined that
22 you could not say that the impact statement is going
23 to be the same at every site. And those were then
24 determined that you had to do a site-specific analysis
25 to address those. So we had these category one,

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1 category two issues. These issues were not ignored
2 when we looked at the site-specific information at
3 Ginna. They're all there. It's just that this
4 category one, category two helps us focus on those
5 issues specific to Ginna.

6 One of the other things that I'm going to
7 be talking about a little bit more is we did look for
8 new information that might say that this impact
9 statement needs to be further evaluated and go into a
10 site specific evaluation. So this process leads to
11 this site-specific performance.

12 We also looked for new issues -- is there
13 something out there in the 90 some issues that have
14 been listed and identified and available for you to
15 look at? Is there something new here, something we
16 haven't seen before and does that need to be
17 evaluated, yes or no. But all that information then
18 goes into our analysis.

19 Next slide.

20 (Slide change.)

21 MR. NEITZEL: When we looked at these
22 issues, looked at the operations, looked at the
23 possibility of 20 more years of operation, then we
24 have to say what is the level of impact. And we used
25 three impact levels in our conclusions, small,

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1 moderate, and large. These definitions are consistent
2 with the Council on Environmental Quality and NEPA
3 guidance. The NRC regulations have specific metrics
4 and definitions of how for each of these activities
5 how they can be rated as small, moderate, or large.

6 Quickly, the small impacts are you can't
7 see any change from this activity and there is no long
8 term or deleterious to that resource. Moderate is you
9 might be able to see a change, but it is not going to
10 have an impact on that, deleterious long term effect
11 on that resource. And the large impacts are you can
12 see the impact, you can measure it, and it does
13 actually change the, has the potential to change that
14 resource. The example that I always like to deal with
15 is fisheries because that's my background. If one of
16 these activities at the site you could actually
17 measure changes in the population or changes in the
18 habitat from withdrawing water or discharging heated
19 water, but it wasn't changing the population. There
20 was a lot of habitat. The habitat of the area wasn't
21 totally effected. You could see that change, but that
22 would be a moderate impact.

23 If you couldn't see them, couldn't measure
24 that change, and there was no long term impacts that
25 would be small. Large is where you could actually see

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1 numbers of fish being taken out of the environment or
2 significant parts of the habitat being changed. So
3 there wasn't available to these fish and that was
4 going to have a long term impact on the population,
5 then that would be a large impact.

6 But for each of these categories, for
7 socio-economic, environmental justice, radiation
8 worker protection, each of these we went through and
9 looked at is that impact small, moderate, or large.
10 So the next slide

11 (Slide change.)

12 MR. NEITZEL: I'm going to talk about some
13 of these categories, I wish I had a slide here and for
14 the next time I do this, but it's in the draft that we
15 brought along. I wish I had listed all 92 of those
16 issues because I'm not dismissing them, I'm trying to
17 keep this focused on a few of the items and how we do
18 this. This list of all 92 issues and which ones are
19 category one and which ones are category two are
20 available here, summarized, we can talk about that.
21 So I'm not ignoring other things. I'm just focusing
22 for this discussion on what we're going to talk about.

23 One other point I want to make real
24 quickly is when I talk about conclusions, those are
25 really preliminary conclusions. This is a draft.

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1 These conclusions are going to be reviewed further.
2 So the conclusions of the staff will come out in the
3 final SEIS, not here. So if I say conclusion, here
4 preliminary ~~conclusion~~.

5 I guess next I'm going to focus on the
6 cooling system and how we evaluated that and looked at
7 that. So would you go to that?

8 (Slide change.)

9 MR. NEITZEL: Here's a picture, a north
10 facing picture of the plant, the lake out here. Water
11 is withdrawn from the lake and discharged into the
12 lake, and we looked at the issues related to
13 entrainment, impingement, and heat shock for the use
14 of that water for operating the plant. And our
15 preliminary findings are that the impacts from the
16 cooling water related to each of these issues is small
17 and that no additional mitigation is required.

18 As Bob mentioned, one of the things we
19 look at is are these resources being impacted and are
20 potential impacts for these resources, is the
21 operation occurring in such a way that those impacts
22 are mitigated or lessened?

23 When water is withdrawn into the system
24 here, there is a series of screens to keep debris and
25 stuff out. Fish can potentially get entrained in that

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1 water, impinged on that screen. Are those screens
2 operated in such a way, are the gaps in the screen
3 such that they minimize or eliminate the fish that are
4 killed or entrained or impinged?. Those are
5 mitigation activities and we reviewed those things.

6 The placement of the intake structure, is
7 that such to minimize the entrainment of fish? Is the
8 placement of the heated water discharge such to
9 minimize impacts to fishery habitat? And we've
10 concluded that there is no additional mitigation
11 required related to the issues withdrawing cooling
12 water. And so we did this kind of thing for each one
13 of those issues, went through and made these kinds of
14 determinations and looked at mitigation.

15 The next example that I want to talk about
16 is the radiological impacts. This is a category one
17 issue. You get to the same conclusion for all plants
18 and so the site's specificity is related back to the
19 generic environmental impact statement. But because
20 it is often a concern of the public, I'm going to take
21 just a minute and discuss how we determine that
22 there's no new information that is related to the
23 radiological impacts for the plants. And we looked at
24 the radiological effluent release monitoring program
25 during our site visit. We looked at how the gasses

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1 and liquid effluents were treated and released.

2 Then we also looked at the solid waste,
3 which is not released. It is treated, packaged, and
4 shipped elsewhere for disposal. This information is
5 in the SEIS, in the draft SEIS, and we looked at how
6 the applicant, RG&E, how they determined and
7 demonstrated their compliance with these regulations.
8 We looked at five years of records, reviewed them with
9 the applicant and then they gave us access to those
10 records and we reviewed them in the draft SEIS, and we
11 looked at the how the applicant, RG&E, how they
12 determined and demonstrated their compliance with
13 these regulations. We looked at five years of
14 records, reviewed them with the applicant and then
15 they gave us access to those records and we reviewed
16 them.

17 Our expert from Lawrence Livermore looked
18 at those records independently and reviewed them and
19 looked at these things, came up with the no new
20 significant information, no change from the conclusion
21 that's in the GEIS. Thank you.

22 Another area that was in that flow chart
23 that's really important that I want to talk about is
24 new information and whether new information that we
25 find is significant. This is something, this is not

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1 only something that we look for, but NRC staff looks
2 for this, the applicant and their staff is constantly
3 looking for new information, and that's one of the
4 reasons and one of the things the we discussed at the
5 scoping meeting is do you have new information that we
6 should look at?

7 This is something we looked at with the
8 state agencies and the federal agencies and said do
9 you have new information? And one of the things that
10 came up was the, that was brought up by the New York
11 State Department of Environmental Conservation was the
12 issues related to the revetment. If you remember that
13 picture in the, of the shoreline, that shoreline is
14 protected with riprap and stuff. Somebody at one of
15 the meetings says well, is there a differential
16 erosion of that shoreline beyond that revetment? Is
17 there or could the revetment cause a change in the
18 rate of erosion related to the areas that aren't
19 protected and stuff?

20 Well, that sounded like new information.
21 It sounded like something new and it could potentially
22 effect the land use or aquatic environments,
23 terrestrial environments. So we looked at that, the
24 licensee looked at that, did a survey. We discussed
25 this with the state agencies that brought this up and

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1 we reviewed the information about the shoreline
2 erosion and the design of the revetment at Ginna. And
3 the staff preliminary concludes that the comments made
4 by the New York State Department and Environmental
5 Conservation do not represent information that would
6 call into question the Commission's conclusion
7 regarding GEIS category one issues and that the
8 impacts on the aquatic and terrestrial resources and
9 land use from the continued operation of GEIS are
10 small and that additional plant specific mitigation
11 measures are not warranted at this time.

12 So that's part of the process and one of
13 the issues that we evaluated because of the comment
14 meetings.

15 Next area of comments are the cumulative
16 effects. One of the things that is required by NEPA,
17 required by NRC and their guidance for doing impact
18 statements is considering impacts of renewal in terms
19 of past actions, present actions, and foreseeable,
20 reasonably foreseeable future actions. This was also
21 brought up at the scoping meeting. Somebody asked
22 what are you going to do about cumulative impacts?

23 Well, we did and we documented that
24 assessment in the draft SEIS and would like you to
25 look at that. We had two concerns there. How do you

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1 temporarily confine or bracket what you're going to
2 look at -- not confine, but bracket? And we said
3 we're going to start with when that site was changed,
4 when the construction started, when the plant
5 construction began. And then go 20 years beyond the
6 license. That would be the foreseeable, the current
7 is what's going on now and the foreseeable future.

8 Then we had to spatially define what we're
9 looking at. It turns out that there wasn't one answer
10 for that because for each one of these resources, it
11 was different. For the aquatic resources we had the
12 lake there. That's where the aquatic resources of the
13 plant are associated with Lake Ontario. And we looked
14 at that. For the terrestrial environment, we were
15 very concerned about the transmission corridors and
16 areas around that for threatened endangered species.

17 We looked at counties around the plant and
18 whether or not any plants or animals occurred there or
19 could possibly occur there in the foreseeable future.
20 For the socio-economic stuff, we looked at the
21 counties where the people live, that work there, the
22 traffic patterns, you know where they drive their cars
23 to and from work, where the taxes are paid to which
24 counties, and stuff and looked at those cumulative
25 effects.

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1 After we looked at all these things, we
2 found no significant cumulative impacts and no need
3 for any further mitigation related to that.

4 Next slide please.

5 (Slide change.)

6 MR. NEITZEL: Two other things we looked
7 at were the uranium fuel cycle and solid waste
8 management and decommissioning. Environmental issues
9 associated with the fuel cycle and solid waste
10 management were discussed in the generic environmental
11 impact statement for license renewal. The staff did
12 not identify any new information on this issue during
13 its independent review of Ginna, the visit or the
14 scoping process or for comments and for all of these
15 issues related to the fuel cycle and waste management,
16 the staff concluded that the impacts are small and
17 that no new mitigation is required.

18 Decommissioning, again, the NRC has an
19 impact statement related to decommissioning. We
20 looked at that and how that relates specifically to
21 Ginna. These are the impacts that may occur after the
22 plant is shut down. And again, we saw no differences
23 from that generic impact statement. There was no new
24 information and nothing to change the impact
25 statements that are in the GEIS.

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1 Next slide.

2 (Slide change.)

3 MR. NEITZEL: Second to the last slide in
4 case you're wondering. One of the things that is
5 required again by CQ, NEPA, and NRC is when you look
6 at a proposed action, you have to look at
7 alternatives. The most important one here is the no
8 action. No action is defined by not renewing the
9 license. That's what we looked at and then
10 alternative energy sources. These are alternatives to
11 the license renewal. We looked at new generation,
12 purchases, oil, wind, solar generation, conservation,
13 and then importantly combinations of those
14 alternatives.

15 Again, for each one of these we review
16 each of these issues in aquatic, terrestrial, socio-
17 economic, went through that list each time and
18 compared the proposed action and the alternatives to
19 the no action to look at that.

20 Last slide

21 (Slide change.)

22 MR. NEITZEL: And the preliminary
23 conclusions for the alternatives, the alternatives
24 including the no action alternatives may have
25 environmental effects in at least some impact

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1 categories that reach moderate or large significance.
2 And this is all compared across, and those comparisons
3 in a table of each one of those is in the GEIS. So at
4 this time, Chip, I've concluded.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, that was a
6 great summary. Let's see if anybody has some
7 questions for you on the preliminary conclusions, as
8 you pointed out.

9 Any questions on the analysis that was on
10 the draft environmental statement?

11 MR. NEITZEL: There's one there in the
12 back, Chip.

13 MODERATOR CAMERON: Ah, good.

14 MR. NEITZEL: And one over here too.

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, let's go back
16 here and then go over there. If you could just give
17 us your name, sir?

18 DR. LOOMIS: Hi, I'm Dr. Norm Loomis, Town
19 Health Officer, also live on the lake, used to live
20 directly across from the plant. Similar studies were
21 done prior to building the plant in 1969, when it
22 opened in 1969 or 1970. Were there any changes from
23 their conclusions to those at this time in your
24 studies?

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Dr. Loomis.

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1 MR. NEITZEL: Yes, do you want to address
2 that, Bob?

3 MR. SCHAAF: I think the answer there
4 would be that yeah, there is a different in the
5 conclusions. The original study looked at the impact
6 of actually building a facility taking a greenfield,
7 so you're going to have some impacts associated with
8 that and then this study looks at the incremental
9 impact of the additional term of operation. You've
10 got this plant in place. It's operating. It's having
11 whatever impacts the original study suggested it would
12 have and what we're focusing on here is the
13 incremental effect of allowing the plant to continue
14 to operate versus ceasing operation at the end of its
15 license term.

16 MODERATOR CAMERON: Does that get to your
17 point, Dr. Loomis or would you like to clarify at all?

18 DR. LOOMIS: It gets to the end of it, but
19 were there any surprises? Were there any changes in
20 the environmental stuff relating to the lake and the
21 surrounding area from that earlier study?

22 MODERATOR CAMERON: This is Mr. Mike
23 Masnik from the NRC Staff.

24 MR. MASNIK: Mike Masnik. Much of the
25 effort back then was predictive and it was based on

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1 the environmental conditions at the time. As we all
2 know, for example, the lake has changed, species,
3 composition of fish and such, but overall the
4 conclusions on impact to the environment that were
5 predicted seemed to be borne out by the studies
6 conducted since then and what we found in our
7 evaluation last fall.

8 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, great. Thank
9 you. Let's go over here to Mr. Tim Judson. And Tim,
10 please introduce yourself to us.

11 MR. JUDSON: Yes, my name is Tim Judson.
12 I'm with the Citizens Awareness Network in Central New
13 York. I guess I have two questions. I guess I could
14 ask them both at the same time. One has to do with
15 this issue about the radiological impacts. And doing
16 that evaluation, did the NRC actually look at public
17 health data in terms of the level of disease in the
18 communities that you know are in the effluent pathway
19 of the reactor?

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Did you have a second
21 question too?

22 MR. JUDSON: The second question has to do
23 with high level waste storage and whether the study
24 actually looked at the incremental effect of
25 generating I think it is up to 250 tons more high

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1 level radioactive waste spent fuel that would need to
2 be stored in the community?

3 MR. NEITZEL: Okay, Rich, are you going to
4 address the questions?

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: This is the first
6 question that Tim raised relates to what I think are
7 commonly referred to as epidemiology studies to see
8 what types of health effects there are in a community,
9 and Mr. Rich Emch is a health physicist with the NRC
10 who perhaps can shed some light on that generally.
11 And if we know anything specifically about what's been
12 done in New York or this region that would be helpful.

13 Rich? All right. And then Tim may have
14 a follow up on that after you get done.

15 MR. EMCH: As I understand it, well,
16 actually, the most direct answer that there was no new
17 examination of health studies in the area around Ginna
18 as part of this review process. However, and as far
19 as I know, that's true both for the state and for us.
20 We didn't do any new studies. However, we do rely on
21 there's some studies that's been done in the past and
22 mainly though it is an issue of we did look at what
23 kinds of effluence, what kinds of doses there might be
24 from the -- am I still not close enough?

25 We did look at what kinds of effluence are

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1 being released from the plant and what kinds of doses
2 could be estimated from those releases, and those are
3 very small. And from that, the inference is no, we
4 did not need to go do or did not need to go examine
5 additional health studies and sort of thing. The
6 doses at which damage has been found, if you will,
7 impacts have been found, they're in the range of say,
8 10,000 millirem. I'm using that particular thing
9 because I'm going to kind of walk our way down through
10 here.

11 Studies like the Bier report,
12 international studies have shown that there are
13 impacts, health impacts, above say 10,000 millirem.

14 In fact, there's been many studies,
15 literally thousands of studies of the impact of
16 radiation on human health, and none of those studies
17 have shown impacts at the lower doses, the kinds of
18 doses we're going to be talking about here. As a
19 member of the human race living on this planet, we all
20 receive somewhere in the neighborhood of 300 millirem
21 a year from various -- a naturally occurring
22 radionuclides and things like that. So you know we're
23 starting off with 10,000 is the place where impacts
24 have been seen. Now we're done to what we all receive
25 every year, which is the 300.

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1 The NRC's regulations for effluence from
2 nuclear power plants allow doses in the range from 5
3 to 10 millirem per year from operational plant. And
4 in fact, after looking at the effluent data for this
5 plant, the doses from gaseous and liquid effluence
6 from this plant to the maximally exposed individual
7 are well below one. They're in the range of a 10th of
8 a millirem or less. So at those doses, there was no
9 reason to believe that anything additional need to be
10 looked at as far as health consequences. Does that
11 answer your question?

12 MR. JUDSON: Well, it does. I mean, my
13 question was just whether you actually looked at the
14 data on the levels of disease in the community, and it
15 sounds like you didn't.

16 MR. EMCH: That's correct.

17 MODERATOR CAMERON: And the NRC, if there
18 were studies that showed that there were increases in
19 cancer or something like that in the community, that
20 would be the type of information that you wouldn't
21 want to know about.

22 MR. EMCH: We were not made aware of
23 anything like that. If there is such information, we,
24 of course, would be very interested in seeing it, yes.

25 MODERATOR CAMERON: And we did check with

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1 the state, New York State Department who usually deals
2 with that.

3 MR. EMCH: Yes, that's correct.

4 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right. Tim,
5 before we go to the high level waste question, do you
6 want to add anything on this? Okay.

7 Spent fuel storage, John Tappert?

8 MR. TAPPERT: The question I had was the
9 additional waste only generated during the renewal
10 period evaluated? And when Duane was going through
11 the original structure of how we do these reviews, he
12 talked about the generic environmental impact
13 statement that looked at generic issues and then site
14 specific issues. The waste that will be associated
15 with an additional 20 years of operation is a generic
16 issue. That will be similar impacts at all the
17 operating power plants.

18 So in fact, it was evaluated, but it was
19 evaluated in that generic environmental impact
20 statement. And during our review, we did not identify
21 any additional new and significant information that
22 would challenge those earlier assessments.

23 Additionally, the Commission has made a
24 judgment as codified in the regulations that waste can
25 be safely stored at reactor sites for up to 30 years

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1 beyond the expiration of the operating license. And
2 that includes the renewal term. Those are the two
3 elements that I think address your question.

4 MODERATOR CAMERON: Anything to add onto
5 that one, Tim?

6 MR. JUDSON: It's curious that you say
7 that that's a generic issue. Since the Department of
8 Energy, in doing its own environmental impact
9 statement about you know, sort of actually moving a
10 lot of the waste out to Yucca Mountain found that if
11 you assume that Ginna is going to be relicensed that
12 in 40 years when Yucca is full and can't accept any
13 more waste that there's still going to be 102 metric
14 tons of high level waste sitting at that site. And
15 you know, if you didn't do the license extension, that
16 wouldn't be true.

17 Canada does not support Yucca Mountain.
18 There's a lot of problems with that dump site, but
19 given that the NRC seems to you know, take Yucca
20 Mountain going forward into account of a lot of other
21 things it does, it seems like a really relevant issue
22 in terms of site-specific impact that if this license
23 extension goes forward, there's probably going to be
24 probably at least 100 tons of waste sitting here for
25 an indeterminate period of time.

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1 MR. TAPPERT: Well, when we say it's
2 generic, it doesn't mean that's necessarily no impact.
3 It's just that the impacts associated with the
4 extension at Ginna would be somewhere similar to the
5 extension at any other nuclear power plant. And the
6 impacts associated with that were consistent and found
7 to be acceptable. Now the point that you're making
8 that Yucca Mountain that it is not licensed, which it
9 is not, but that's a national level decision and the
10 Department of Energy and the Congress and the NRC are
11 dealing with that.

12 But the Commission has determined that the
13 waste is not in jeopardy right now. It can be safely
14 stored on site and that there will be a geological
15 repository, be it Yucca Mountain or some other place
16 within the first quarter of the century. So that's
17 where we are today.

18 MODERATOR CAMERON: And I know that Tim
19 knows about this process that's going on now. But
20 perhaps other people might be interested in the fact
21 that the NRC is revisiting the generic environmental
22 impact statement on license renewal. And I take it
23 that Tim's point is that if there's extra spent fuel
24 generated because of license renewal, which just
25 exacerbates the high level waste problem. Now that's

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1 the type of issue that this issue would probably be
2 that you would refer over, also refer over to the
3 people doing the regional, the revisit.

4 Is that correct, John?

5 MR. TAPPERT: Yes, Chip, and that's a good
6 point which I should have raised earlier. The
7 transportation and the fuel cycle issues are addressed
8 in the generic environmental impact statement. Now as
9 a policy matter, we're updating that on a 10-year
10 basis. Now that 10 years is coming up, it expires in
11 2006. So right now we're actually seeking public
12 comment through September on issues that should be
13 addressed in that generic, environmental impact
14 statement. And there's a license renewal, there's a
15 website to receive comments on that, and there's other
16 addresses I can give you as well. So if you're
17 interested in taking on this category one or generic
18 issues, that will be the forum to do it.

19 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thank you.
20 Other questions on the preliminary conclusions in the
21 draft environmental impact statement at this point?
22 And again, we can go back after the formal comment and
23 see if anybody has any other questions at that point.
24 Why don't we go on to Mark Rubin, and thank you very
25 much Duane. And Mark is going to talk about severe

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1 accident mitigation alternatives, and then we'll go
2 back out for questions and I think Bob Schaaf after
3 that will tell people how to submit comments and then
4 we'll go out to you for formal comments. Mark?

5 MR. RUBIN: Thank you, Chip. As Chip
6 mentioned earlier, I am Section Chief in the
7 Probabilistic Safety Assessment Branch, which is
8 nuclear reactor regulation. The Commission has -- am
9 I tuned in here? I'm a little short for this. As the
10 Commission has determined that the environmental
11 assessment for Ginna for all the license renewal
12 plants, will include a plant specific assessment,
13 severe accident mitigation alternatives, even though
14 severe accident risks for all reactors have been shown
15 to be quite small.

16 Now what's a severe accident? When the
17 plants are -- and this is very different from the
18 designed based accidents that the plants were
19 originally licensed for. When the plants were
20 originally licensed, they were assessed against
21 designed basis accidents. They're prescribed sets of
22 accidents -- they're very complete, very specific,
23 involving such things as pipe breaks, normally called
24 loss-of-coolant accidents, equipment failure, most
25 conservative assumptions in the analysis. And the

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1 plants were shown to be very robust, have a lot of
2 capabilities for surviving these accidents and meeting
3 very prescriptive accident evaluation criteria.

4 Both the safety and the environmental
5 impacts were shown to be very small during the
6 original plant licensing. Since that time, additional
7 techniques have been developed called the
8 probabalistic risk assessment, severe accident
9 assessment, that give us the ability to look at events
10 that are more complex events that are of a very low
11 probability. Very low frequency. These go beyond the
12 types of accidents that were evaluated during the
13 original plant licensing and the new tools we have
14 available allow us to mathematically predict the
15 likelihood, the probabilities and the consequences of
16 accidents of this kind.

17 These severe accidents, as they're called,
18 are hypothetical accidents of very low probability,
19 that can result in rather large damage to the reactor
20 core and some potential hypothetical off-site
21 consequences to the public.

22 So how do we do these studies? Techniques
23 called probabilistic risk assessment are used to model
24 these hypothetical accidents using mathematical
25 modeling, computer modeling, to look at very complex,

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1 very long sequences of equipment failure, what we call
2 accident initiators, that progress through a lot of
3 failures to give severe damage to the reactor core.

4 And studies like these are used to
5 evaluate the severe accident mitigation alternatives,
6 which are ways to reduce the likelihood of the
7 consequences of these beyond design basis severe
8 accidents. If you go on to the next view graph, thank
9 you.

10 (Slide change.)

11 MR. RUBIN: So how's all this done? How's
12 this SAMA analysis conducted? Conceptually, it is
13 rather simple, though the tools and techniques used
14 are relatively complex. The first step of the process
15 is to characterize the overall plant risk. What are
16 the likelihood, what are the consequences of these
17 severe accidents? And for that, as I've mentioned
18 before, we used the technique called PRA,
19 probabilistic risk assessment, which is essentially a
20 model, an analytical, mathematical model of the plant,
21 all of the important components, structures, with
22 failure likelihoods, models, mathematical models of
23 the success of these systems and how they have to
24 respond to keep a severe accident from occurring.

25 And these studies will typically give you

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1 frequencies of various types of severe accidents and
2 also likelihoods of such things as containment failure
3 and off-site consequences, as you carry them out to
4 the extreme of those types of studies that can be done
5 with our current analytical tools. That would be the
6 first step in a SAMA analysis process, which is a good
7 complete, plant specific, probabilistic risk
8 assessment.

9 The next step in the SAMA analysis is to
10 identify potential plant improvements based on the
11 insights that you get from the PRA. And typically,
12 the assessment that was done by Rochester Gas and
13 Electric would look at such things as hardware
14 modifications, procedure changes, training program
15 improvements, a full spectrum of potential
16 improvements to the plant and its operating process
17 and procedures.

18 Typically, what we're looking for in our
19 assessment of the SAMA process are changes,
20 modifications, improvements, that would reduce the
21 likelihood of core damage in a severe accident, or
22 improve the response of the containment following a
23 severe accident, so there would be no releases to the
24 environment.

25 After you've identified the primary set of

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1 potential improvements, then the real key in doing a
2 SAMA analysis is to quantify the risk reduction
3 potential and implementation cost.

4 Again, that's done using a multitude of
5 analytical tools that attempt to predict and to model
6 how these improvements will reduce the severe accident
7 risk. Namely, it will look at the probabilities of
8 these severe accidents, and there's a whole sequence
9 of the scenarios that are involved. And these
10 improvements will result in some, hopefully,
11 potentially, result in some reduction in the
12 probability of the severe accidents or their
13 consequences or containment response.

14 At the same time, you look at the
15 implementation cost of actually making the changes so
16 that you can get a sense of what we call cost benefit
17 assessment. Namely, are the benefits through the
18 reduction in the severe accident likelihood or
19 consequences more beneficial than the implementation
20 costs of doing the improvement? After looking at the
21 cost benefit results, both the benefits and the costs,
22 at the end, we'll look at whether the potential
23 improvements, if any of them are shown to be cost
24 beneficial, are actually related to a license renewal
25 type of issue. Namely, something that's an aging

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1 related degradation type of issue.

2 Go onto the new view graph

3 (Slide change.)

4 MR. RUBIN: The evaluation and SAMA
5 analysis initially looked at about 200 candidate
6 improvements, and through a set of very screening
7 evaluations, winnowed them down to a much more
8 manageable level, ultimately eight ones that were
9 given a detailed analysis.

10 Typically, when you do these types of
11 evaluations, you start out doing a fairly conservative
12 analysis. You look at what risk you can, residual
13 risk that the plant has from the severe accident
14 evaluations that are done. And you make very
15 simplistic assumptions. If you can make all the risk
16 in a certain area go away, then that's the maximum
17 benefit you could get from a category of improvement.

18 So you make some rather simplifying
19 assumptions when you start out to find out which
20 candidates would potentially give you a reasonable
21 amount of benefit. And as these went down a more
22 complete evaluation process, there were a set of eight
23 that were given a more detailed, both engineering and
24 cost benefit evaluation to get a more complete
25 analytical result, what the benefits were and what the

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1 costs were.

2 When this was completed, two of the eight
3 improvements that were subjected to the detailed study
4 were found to be cost beneficial. Namely, the
5 reduction in risk that you achieved from implementing
6 those improvements were more than the cost of doing
7 them. And what do we mean when we say the benefit?
8 To calculate the benefit, the PRA model is used with
9 some off-site dose-consequence models to look at the
10 potential severe accident impact on both the external
11 environment, as well as the plant itself.

12 So it is a fairly complete assessment of
13 the total cost, averted cost is what we call it, of
14 the severe accident being reduced in probability or
15 consequences. Both the off-site health impact,
16 off-site economic impact, and on-site impacts. And
17 those are all compared with the cost of doing the
18 improvement to see if it is cost beneficial. The two
19 that were found to be cost beneficial following this
20 evaluation was addition of a third diesel generator,
21 which would be of assistance during what we call
22 station blackout severe accidents. And that's the
23 type of accident that postulates that all the multiple
24 safety systems providing on-site AC emergency power
25 were to fail and that this additional source of power

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1 would provide AC power to keep maintaining core heat
2 removal.

3 It was a fairly expensive improvement,
4 about \$400,000 was the initial estimate. But it gave
5 a reasonable risk reduction, and so in this case was
6 found to be cost beneficial. Additionally, the cross
7 connection revision to the procedures of repairing the
8 charging pumps was also found to be cost beneficial.
9 This would cross connect the B and C charging pumps to
10 train A power source to essentially provide additional
11 protection during severe accident fire scenario
12 accidents.

13 Go on to the next view graph.

14 (Slide change.)

15 MR. RUBIN: Well, basically these two
16 SAMAs were found to be cost beneficial using typical
17 traditional cost benefit analysis. The risk for the
18 plant, in general, was quite low and the benefits from
19 these two improvements were reasonable. They weren't
20 exceedingly large, but because of the costs and the
21 benefits, they were shown to be cost beneficial.
22 However, neither of these are an aging related
23 degradation issue. And so they're not specifically
24 related to the license renewal process itself.

25 Consequently, these improvements would not

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1 be required as part of the license renewal process,
2 but rather will be entered into the plant's
3 prioritization scheme for planned upgrades, design
4 enhancements, and, in fact, the staff will also follow
5 up on this issue as part of putting it into our safety
6 process to continue to follow the licensee's plans in
7 this area.

8 That completes the SAMA evaluation and I'd
9 be glad to answer any questions I could.

10 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thanks a lot, Mark.
11 It was a good example, I think, of how things that are
12 identified during license renewal but perhaps not
13 implemented because it doesn't tie in or implement it
14 through other NRC activities. But are there any
15 questions on this? Yes, sir. And please tell us who
16 you are.

17 MR. SANTIROCCO: I'm Raymond Santirocco,
18 and for the reporter that's S-A-N-T-I-R-O-C-C-O. I am
19 a member of the Monroe County Legislature. I'm the
20 Chairman of the Public Safety Committee, and the issue
21 of radiological safety comes under the purview of our
22 committee. That's something I'm very interested in.
23 In a prior life, I had also been public safety
24 commissioner of the county back at the time we first
25 started planning for accidents when NUREG 0654 was

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1 first issued.

2 So I've been following the history of this
3 with some interest. And I have a question with
4 respect to the cost benefit analysis of the SAMA
5 process. And there's something that's troubled me
6 about cost benefit analysis, in general, and maybe you
7 have some thoughts on it. The cost associated with
8 these improvements are generally costs that are going
9 to be incurred by the operator. The example that you
10 gave of these two, the costs incurred by the operator,
11 yet the benefits or the avoided cost as you pointed
12 out can occur, you know, anywhere. It can save some
13 farmer 15 miles downwind some money.

14 Therefore, it has always seemed to me that
15 you're comparing incomparable things, and you're
16 comparing benefits that may accrue to certain people
17 to costs that are incurred by other people. And can
18 you equate those?

19 MR. RUBIN: It's a profound question, of
20 course. I think we can compare them. We're looking
21 at impacts on society as a whole. We're looking at
22 the costs of implementing reductions in public impact,
23 public risk. By the nature of the process, the cost
24 to reduce public risk will come upon the utility if
25 they're the operator of the plant.

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1 The methodology used is a relatively
2 straightforward one that's pretty consistently used,
3 certainly within the nuclear industry.

4 I believe it is also used throughout the
5 government, in general, to try and get a handle on the
6 relative benefits versus the relative costs. And in
7 doing that, your choice of 50 miles was an interesting
8 one, because indeed that's the distance that they met
9 with the models, will typically produce the off-site
10 consequences to generate the cost benefit numbers.

11 The calculation will look at both the
12 salient impacts, but also the plant impacts. And in
13 that typically there can be some very large impacts,
14 the replacement cost for example, the real actual cost
15 to the workers, is as complete a model as a decision
16 maker from our perspective can make it.

17 If we were to leave out the, for example,
18 the cost to the utility, that would tend to make the
19 changes less beneficial and less attractive. So what
20 we do is we try to include as many of the costs as
21 possible in the analysis, because it tends to make
22 things more attractive to implement, to correct, to
23 fix, to reduce the risk from.

24 To look at the impact, that's the other
25 side of the equation, the models we use and the

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1 analytical methods are as complete as we can make
2 them, looking at both the impact of the land
3 contamination, the public health impacts, which are
4 from the external side the most significant ones. But
5 as I've said, we don't stop there, we also look at the
6 on-site costs to make sure we have a more level
7 playing field.

8 So there's not an absolutely correct
9 answer to your question. But what we try to do is
10 make the analysis process as complete as we can
11 reasonably can make it so that we have a really well
12 founded, analytical decision making framework to try
13 to make appropriate decisions from. And if -- that's
14 a good answer?

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: Let's get some input
16 from Rich Emch and then we'll come back to Mr.
17 Santirocco to see if he has anything else that wants
18 to say.

19 Rich, do you have something to add on
20 that?

21 MR. EMCH: In a way, your comment is along
22 the lines of why does the guy who is living at 50
23 miles care how much it costs this utility to put this
24 thing in here that's going to help save his life?
25 Right? Okay.

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1 I'm not sure if the 50 miles example is
2 perfect, but let's remember that this power plant is
3 producing electricity for the people in this region.
4 I don't know about the guy 50 miles, but a lot of the
5 people within 50 miles, and the costs ultimately of
6 whatever they do here to operate this plant and to
7 make changes to the plant, to make it safer, those
8 costs get carried over to a least some degree in what
9 that farmer whoever pays in terms of his electric
10 bill.

11 So that makes it a little bit more of a
12 you know, a cost and the benefit impact on that
13 individual to some degree. I just thought I'd mention
14 that.

15 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Rich.

16 Mr. Santirocco, do you want to add
17 anything?

18 MR. SANTIROCCO: Well, I thank both
19 gentlemen for very complete responses, and I think I'm
20 convinced, well convinced, that the process of
21 analysis identifies all of the factors to the extent
22 that it is humanly possible to do so.

23 How you add them up and how you do the
24 arithmetic when you get them all identified I guess we
25 can occasionally disagree a little bit.

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1 MR. RUBIN: I can just reference you to
2 the source document to the way the analysis is done,
3 if that would be of any help to you. It is NUREG
4 BR0184.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: And what is the title
6 of that?

7 MR. RUBIN: Unfortunately, I didn't jot it
8 down.

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: All right. Well, if
10 anybody needs, wants a copy or whatever we can
11 obviously get that for you.

12 So are there other questions about the
13 severe accident mitigation alternatives at this point?

14 All right, thank you very much, Mark.

15 And Bob is just going to give us a run
16 down on how to submit comments and then we're going to
17 go out to you for more formal comment.

18 MR. SCHAAF: Right, and we're running a
19 little long so I'll try to move smartly through this
20 so we can get to your comments. Turning to our
21 overall preliminary conclusions, we found that the
22 impacts of license renewal are small in all impact
23 areas.

24 We also concluded that the alternative
25 actions including the no action alternative may have

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1 environmental effects in at least some impact
2 categories that reach moderate or large significance.

3 Based on these results, our preliminary
4 recommendation is that the adverse environmental
5 impacts of license renewal for Ginna are not so great
6 that preserving the option of license renewal for
7 energy planning decision makers would be unreasonable.
8 It's a wordy phrase. It's the way our regulation is
9 written on license renewal.

10 (Slide change.)

11 MR. SCHAAF: This slide provides a quick
12 recap of the current status of the review. We issued
13 the draft environmental impact statement on June 25.
14 We're currently in the middle of the public comment
15 period, scheduled to close on September 16th, and our
16 goal is to address public comments including any
17 necessary changes to the draft and issue the final
18 statement in February of next year.

19 We can mail a copy to anyone who is
20 interested in receiving a copy, if you fill out one of
21 the blue or yellow cards at our registration desk.
22 After the document is issued, it will be reviewed by
23 the EPA. They'll have 30 days in which to make a
24 determination as to the acceptability of the final
25 impact statement. After that point, it will be

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1 available as providing part of the basis for the NRC's
2 decision on the proposed license renewal.

3 The final statement along with the safety
4 evaluation report, inspection reports, and ACRS report
5 which Russ described earlier will be considered by the
6 Director of Nuclear Reactor Regulation in making a
7 final decision regarding whether to issue a new
8 renewed license to Ginna.

9 The NRC staff and our lab personnel are
10 here today to answer your questions. Feel free to
11 talk to us after the meeting. If you have any
12 questions after today, you can contact me directly at
13 the phone number provided on the slide.

14 This slide also provides options for
15 accessing the draft impact statement for your review
16 and comment. We do have some copies available today
17 at the back of the room. The Ontario and Rochester
18 public libraries have copies available for review and
19 the document is also available on the internet at the
20 address shown on the slide.

21 Next slide, please.

22 (Slide change.)

23 MR. SCHAAF: This meeting is being
24 transcribed, and the comments provided here will be
25 considered in finalizing the draft environmental

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1 impact statement. Outside of this meeting, there are,
2 I believe, four ways to provide comments. We have the
3 three options identified on the slide, which are you
4 can mail us comments at the address shown. If you
5 happen to be in Rockville, Maryland, feel free to stop
6 into our office and provide written comments. Or they
7 can be provided by e-mail to the address given here.

8 You may also provide comments through an
9 on-line comment form which is available when you
10 access the web copy of the Draft Impact Statement
11 discussed on the previous slide.

12 All comments provided through all methods
13 will be considered in preparing the final impact
14 statement. That concludes my wrap up.

15 I'd like to thank the Ontario fire
16 department for allowing us to use their hall today.
17 I'd also like to thank you all for taking time to
18 attend for your questions and I look forward to
19 hearing your comments.

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Bob. If
21 there are any questions about process after we get
22 done with the comments, I think we'll have time to
23 field them. But let's move on to the comments.

24 Do you have something else to say? Go
25 ahead, Bob.

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1 MR. SCHAAF: I also just wanted to point
2 out anyone who hadn't caught it is we do have pitchers
3 of water available over in the corner. I encourage
4 you to avail yourselves of a cool drink.

5 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay, thanks Bob.
6 Let's go to Mr. Michael Havens first from the Central
7 School District, in Wayne County, right?

8 MR. HAVENS: Wayne Central.

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Wayne Central. Okay,
10 thank you.

11 MR. HAVENS: Good afternoon. First I'd
12 like to thank the NRC for coming out here to Ontario.
13 You seemed to have chased the rain away and we
14 appreciate that after about a week of unrelenting
15 rain, and also for the opportunity for all of us to
16 speak here about the relicensing of the Ginna Nuclear
17 Power Plant.

18 As has been said, my name is Michael
19 Havens. I'm the superintendent of the Wayne Central
20 School District, located primarily here in the town of
21 Ontario and also the town of Walmouth, although we are
22 in parts of the town of Webster, parts of town of
23 Merriam, Williamson, and Penfield.

24 The Ginna nuclear power plant is located
25 within our school district. As a matter of fact, it

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1 is approximately six miles from our high school, our
2 middle school, and two of our three elementary
3 schools. I say that and say that I'm here to support
4 the relicensing of the Ginna nuclear power plant. And
5 I say that primarily for three reasons.

6 First of all, the Ginna plant has been an
7 excellent corporate neighbor. It also provides a
8 great tax base for the school district, and lastly, it
9 provides a good standard of living for the parents of
10 our children that are here. And let me talk a little
11 about the economic tax base, first of all. Over the
12 last five years, the Ginna nuclear power plant has
13 provided us with more than \$15 million worth of
14 revenue.

15 And in fact, just this last year they
16 provided more than \$3.1 million of tax revenue for
17 our children. Now that represented about 21.9 percent
18 of the tax revenue generated for our school district.
19 That means that about one in every five dollars is
20 spent from tax revenue for our children comes from
21 that one plant.

22 Conversely, the loss of that would be
23 disastrous both for our school children and also for
24 the tax payers would have to make up the difference.

25 Secondly, in terms of being a good

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1 corporate neighbor, while I must admit it is scary for
2 all of us to think about an accident at the plant, and
3 especially for me, who is responsible for about 2,900
4 children, I also realize that the Ginna nuclear power
5 plant is recognized nationally, is one of the best run
6 plants.

7 Also, we are confident in plant manager
8 Joe Widay and people like Rick Watts and the others
9 who operate the plant. And in fact, particularly
10 post-9/11, we feel very comfortable it's a secure site
11 with the addition of the National Guardspeople.

12 We also run annual evacuation drills and
13 feel we are prepared for an emergency should it
14 happen.

15 Lastly is the standard of living that it
16 provides my children. The Ginna nuclear power plant
17 itself provides about 500 jobs. Additionally, there's
18 about 300 related jobs through private companies.
19 That provides a standard of living to the people who
20 work there, most of which the people who live here in
21 our community and provides decent houses, it provides
22 middle class values and opportunities for our
23 children.

24 In fact, I have to say that those of us
25 that live here in Ontario would say that we kind of

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1 have the best of both worlds. We live in a very rural
2 atmosphere, yet we have the economic base of a more
3 suburban area. So from my perspective, Ginna has been
4 a good corporate neighbor. It provides a great
5 economic tax base and it also provides a good standard
6 of living for our children, and I wholeheartedly look
7 forward to continue support of Ginna and hope that
8 there's success with the relicensing. Thank you.

9 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you very much,
10 Mr. Havens. We're going to go to Mr. Robert Mecredy
11 next, who is the Vice President of Nuclear Operations
12 for Rochester Gas and Electric to tell us a little bit
13 about their vision and rationale for the license
14 renewal application, and then we're going to go to Mr.
15 Tim Judson from Citizen's Awareness Network.

16 Mr. Mecredy.

17 MR. MECREDY: Thanks, Chip. I am Bob
18 Mecredy, Vice President of Nuclear Operations for RG&E
19 and have responsibility for the operation of Ginna.
20 I appreciate the opportunity to comment. RG&E
21 submitted its application, our application, for a
22 license renewal just about a year ago. We're seeking
23 the license renewal in order to preserve the option to
24 operate Ginna in the renewed period. And this
25 recognizes the fact that Ginna and the electricity it

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1 produces can be a valuable asset to the community and,
2 in fact, to the state.

3 Because Ginna produces about half the
4 electricity on an annual basis is that it is used in
5 the RG&E service territory. So it's not an
6 insignificant contribution to the local area.

7 The NRC is seeking comments here as part
8 of the review, and this is but one step and once the
9 safety review has been commented on will be
10 forthcoming and we look forward to reviewing the NRC's
11 safety review when it is issued here in the next
12 several months.

13 RG&E and the employees of Ginna take
14 seriously and always have our responsibility to
15 operate safely and to minimize the impact of the plant
16 and our operations on the environment. An early,
17 relatively small, but yet very visible example of that
18 intention that's paid to the environment is the
19 attention paid to the aesthetics of the plant and the
20 design provides that the plant blends into the
21 environment. And we continue that attention not just
22 to the aesthetics, but also to the overall
23 environmental well being.

24 We continue to monitor our safety and the
25 environmental performance. We learn from others. We

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1 search for way to improve our performance. There also
2 is ongoing independent oversight by the NRC and by
3 others.

4 In our application, we did conduct an
5 environmental review using our own experts and
6 specialists and outside experts. And our conclusion
7 was that operation in the extended period would be
8 acceptable from an environmental standpoint.

9 As you've heard, the NRC's preliminary
10 conclusion is that there's no reason from an
11 environmental impact statement here not to renew the
12 license. And we concur with that preliminary
13 conclusion. It should be noted and it's important to
14 note that as we continue to operate, we will continue
15 to set as a priority safe and environmentally
16 responsible operation. We'll continually monitor and
17 measure our performance against standards, and we'll
18 search out ways to improve our performance. Thank
19 you.

20 MODERATOR CAMERON: Okay. Thank you, Bob.

21 Next we're going to hear from Tim Judson
22 from Citizens Awareness Network.

23 MR. JUDSON: Thanks, Chip. We appreciate
24 the opportunity to give comments. My name is Tim
25 Judson. I'm with the Central New York chapter of the

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1 Citizens Awareness Network. I actually live in
2 Syracuse, New York. But I'm here today because of the
3 sort of the regional concern about the impact of this
4 relicensing decision. And it is actually going to be
5 the first in a series of relicensing decisions that
6 goes on in our area. The next ones to come up
7 actually they're going to apply to relicense both the
8 Nine-Mile Point reactors come October.

9 And you know, when I was here at the
10 meeting in November, the first of these meetings about
11 this environmental review. You know, seeing that
12 there were a lot of sort of dead elephants sitting
13 around the room that no one was really talking about.
14 It is interesting that those dead elephants are still
15 there and they're still not being talked about. As
16 the NRC is sort of slicing and dicing its way through
17 this decision, one of the things that have come that
18 seems fundamental and we actually looked into this
19 that there's actually in terms of the end of the
20 regions energy needs, there's no need for Ginna for
21 electricity.

22 In fact, there's an article that was
23 published in the Syracuse Post Standard two years ago
24 that laid out that Central and Western New York
25 actually generate about 50 percent more power than we

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1 ever need, even on the hottest day. And Ginna
2 represents less than 10 percent of that surplus, and
3 it is less than 3 percent of the total energy
4 generation in the region. And it is really remarkable
5 in looking at this whole issue of whether it makes
6 sense to preserve this option, the NRC didn't even
7 seem to take that into account that there's this
8 massive surplus of energy in our area.

9 And what that means in a lot of ways is
10 this whole question about trading benefits to the
11 community versus risks is really sort of irrelevant in
12 a lot of ways, because if you look at what's going to
13 happen if Ginna is relicensed, and it is going to be
14 sold. That's another one of the dead elephants in the
15 room. Ginna is not going to owned by RG&E much longer
16 if this license extension is granted.

17 The rate payers are going to end up paying
18 about 3 billion dollars for electricity from this
19 reactor over 20 years. You know, we can't actually
20 improve our safety and our environment by shutting
21 down this reactor and spending \$3 billion on other
22 things. We can't conserve 3 percent of our energy in
23 this region for the cost of \$3 billion in electricity?
24 We can't afford to pay for a thorough and good clean
25 up of the site from all the radioactive waste that's

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1 there? And we can't make up for the loss of property
2 taxes to the school district with \$3 billion?

3 This really seems like the kind of
4 questions that needs to be addressed. And maybe it is
5 not the NRC that can do that. Maybe this is something
6 that the community needs to do and that the region
7 needs to do and actually needs to happen through the
8 state. But these are fundamental issues to this whole
9 question of whether to relicense. And when you weigh
10 that against the risk of having this reactor operating
11 in the community and generating more high level waste,
12 it is sort of bizarre that the NRC treats safety and
13 the creation of nuclear waste as having the same
14 environmental impact as not doing it, which is
15 essentially what comes out in the SEIS if you read it
16 is that when evaluating the option of not relicensing
17 and the reactor shutting down in 5 years, that the NRC
18 says by the way there's a low environmental impact in
19 that because it means it would all stop.

20 And then in looking at the risk of going
21 forward in terms of having accidents, in terms of
22 generating you know another 200 tons of high level
23 radioactive waste that will be stored in the
24 community, that's a low impact too. And so, of
25 course, the NRC is going to go along with the

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1 relicensing because, of course, you know they can't
2 distinguish between operating a reactor and shutting
3 it down.

4 So there's a lot of ways in which the
5 supplemental environmental impact statement seems like
6 it really misses the point.

7 And it is geared more to passing the buck
8 on to the Public Service Commission, which is perhaps
9 what needs to happen. But what is really essential at
10 this point is that there be an evaluation of this and
11 maybe it is the community that needs to do it. But
12 we're all on this boat together and we all have to
13 take it on.

14 MODERATOR CAMERON: Thank you, Tim.

15 Is there anybody else that wants to speak?
16 Any other questions on issues that we didn't cover or
17 anything that the NRC wants to add at this point for
18 public information?

19 Okay, thank you all for coming out and
20 being with us today. I'm going to ask John Tappert to
21 close the meeting out for us real quickly.

22 John?

23 MR. TAPPERT: And I, too, would add my
24 voice to thank you for coming out today and sharing
25 your thoughts with us.

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1 We have a number of staff and contractors
2 with us here today, so if you'd like to ask anyone a
3 question on a one to one basis we'll be staying after
4 the meeting. Thanks again.

5 (Whereupon, at 3:15 p.m., the meeting was
6 the record.)

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